

Application No. 10/798,384
Amendment dated June 20, 2006
Reply to Office Action of March 20, 2006

Docket No.: 2450-0651PUS1

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are now present in this application.

The specification and claims 1-3 and 5 have been amended and claims 7-16 have been presented. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). Because reference numeral 13b has been changed to 13a, this objection should now be overcome. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

The disclosure stands objected to for an informality. Because the "striking zone" is consistently used in the specification and claims, this objection should now be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 1-2 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Takano, US Patent 4,259,557. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 3-6 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Takano. This rejection is also respectfully traversed.

The patent to Takano discloses a rectangular electric contact for a switch. Claim 1 of the present application, however, recites a silver contact connection structure with a conductive blade and a fastening section. The fastening section has a hole extending therethrough and a horizontal cross section of the fastening section has a non-circular shape matching a shape of a mold used with the silver contact connection structure. This arrangement is discussed on page 5 of the specification. In particular, the molds being used have non-circular horizontal cross sections to form a fixing zone such as 20 in the fastening section, such as 13a. The fixing zone 20 also has a non-circular horizontal cross section matching the molds. Dependent claim 2 brings

Application No. 10/798,384
Amendment dated June 20, 2006
Reply to Office Action of March 20, 2006

Docket No.: 2450-0651PUS1

out that the fastening section has a saw shape. This arrangement of claims 1 and dependent claim 2 is not found in the Takano reference.

The dependent claims further distinguish the invention. The Examiner should consider all limitations in these claims.

A new independent claim 7 has also been presented. This claim recites the silver contact connection structure. The fastening has at least one wall extending from the top surface to the bottom surface of the conductive blade. This at least one wall has at most one angle but is otherwise straight in the longitudinal direction. Therefore, the fastening section linearly extends through the conductive blade except when the one angle is present. This claim 7 would be generic to the different disclosed embodiments. In some embodiments, such as Figures 3a and 3b, the wall of the fastening section is straight. As recited in claim 10, for example, this embodiment would have the bottom of the fastening section forming a right angle with the bottom surface of the conductive blade. Other embodiments, such as Figures 4a, 4b and 5 would have a bucking end at one end of the fastening section. Therefore, the joint between the bucking end and the fastening section would form the at most one angle in the wall of the fastening section.

The Takano device, on the other hand, would have plural angles in the wall of the fastening section such that a linear wall or a wall with just one angle would not be formed. In other words, the Examiner has relied upon the embodiment of Figure 7 since this is the only embodiment with a projecting fastening section. The Takano projections are akin to tabs than a smooth projecting wall forming a fastening section. In Figure 7 of Takano, the fastening section from top to bottom has a vertical wall section, a wall section at about 45 degrees to the vertical, a

Application No. 10/798,384
Amendment dated June 20, 2006
Reply to Office Action of March 20, 2006

Docket No.: 2450-0651PUS1

next wall section which is horizontal and then a wall section which is vertical. This complex design is more complicated to manufacture than the claimed design of the present application.

Claims which depend from claim 7 farther define the silver contact connection structure. Nonetheless, it is respectfully submitted that both independent claims 1 and 7 as well as their dependent claims define a silver contact connection structure which is neither suggested nor rendered obvious by the prior art utilized by the Examiner. As such, the 35 USC 102(b) and 103 rejections should now be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

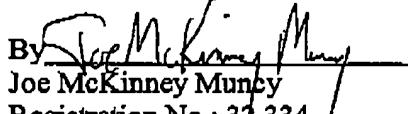
Because the additional prior art cited by the Examiner has been included merely to show the state of the prior art and has not been utilized to reject the claims, no further comments concerning these documents are considered necessary at this time.

In the event that any outstanding matters remain in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: June 20, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Joe McKinney Muncy
Registration No.: 32,334
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road, Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant